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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Grondahl on March 13, 2007.

Claim 23 has been cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record disclose a treatment process for a mix of materials originating from residues from grinding of consumable articles at the end of their lives into fragmented form comprising mechanical separation by screens, aeraulically separating by gas flow, and grinding one of the fractions.

However, the prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious all of the details of the limitations of independent claim and, in particular, a treatment process for a mix of materials originating from residues from grinding of consumable articles at the end of their lives into fragmented form in accordance with the detailed series of separation process comprising a) mechanically separating by screening to at least

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partly extract the fractions of contaminating mineral materials from the mix of materials, b) aeraulically separating by gas flow the mix of materials originating from step a) from which the mineral materials fraction has been at least partly removed so as to output a first fraction (b1) that includes a fraction of ultra-lightweight or expanded synthetic polymer materials, a second fraction (b2) that includes a fraction of heavy materials and a third fraction (b3) that includes a fraction of synthetic polymer materials to be recovered, in fragmented form varying from a rigid state to a flexible state.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Y. Pahng whose telephone number is 571 272 4522. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Banks H. Derris can be reached on 571 272 4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JYP

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700